Improvement of higher education

†2220. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has felt the need for rendering the standard of education excellent in the field of higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether certain schemes for that purpose have been prepared during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details of the schemes out of those which have already been implemented, and those which are still on paper and have not been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Improvement of quality of Higher Education is a continuous process. Apart from revamping the on-going schemes aimed at improving the standard of education in the university system, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has initiated a number of new programmes during the 11th Plan broadly covering the areas of Expansion, Inclusion and Excellence. In addition to substantial increase in General Development Grants (Plan) of universities and colleges, special schemes have been designed for the students belonging to the marginalized scheme of society like Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women.

The UGC has initiated action in respect of certain new schemes such as Grants for uncovered universities and colleges. Support for upliftment of universities/institutions from National Assessment and Accreditation Council's rating 'B' to 'A' and 'C' to 'B', as the case may be and Modalities for Operationalisation for setting up of 374 degree colleges in such districts where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is less than national average.

The UGC has also taken up various reforms measures such as introduction of semester system, frequent updating of curricula etc. for improvement of higher education.

Admission and schooling of dyslexic children

2221. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a special policy guideline for admission and schooling of dyslexic children;

(b) if so, what is the gist thereof;

(c) whether schools are appointing special educators who cater to the needs of dyslexic children; and

(d) whether a study has been made to find out the increasing incidence of suicides being committed by such school-going children?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.